The wound was contracted by sutures until there was left only a small drainage track. August 10 the fistula was reopened and the lining wall of the now smaller cavity was again removed. This was repeated November 30, and the lung was now drawn out by a forceps and fixed by sutures to the margins of the cavity. A flap was made from the overlying skin and soft tissues with its base toward the spine and drawn over the presenting lung tissue. For a few days there was high fever. Six days after the operation there was evacuated from the upper angle of the wound a large quantity of almost clear exudate, free of bacteria. Then the temperautre fell and the wound closed firmly. Over the whole area of the old cavity, vesicular breathing could be heard. There was a good curve to the thorax, with no sinking in of the skin and no scoliosis.

The Utilization of the Coagulation Time of the Blood in Surgery.—DENK and HELLMANN (*Mitt. a. d. Grenzgeb. d. Med. u. Chir.*, 1909, xx, 218) say that the Wright method of determining the coagulation time of the blood, with careful attention to sources of error, is the most reliable method of determining comparatively slight deviations from the normal, which may be regarded as pathological. The practical application of this examination is of great value to surgeons in detecting hemophilia, even of the mildest grades. Operations on bleeders should be undertaken only after prophylactic treatment with calcium salts or serum injections, when the effects of these substances are to be controlled by the determination ot the coagulation time of blood. Operations that are not urgent should be declined in severe cases of hemophilia, in which the clotting time is higher than normal in spite of preliminary treatment. In the after-treatment of operations, in which the coagulation time is normal or accelerated, milk and all other foods which hasten coagulation should be avoided. In such cases citric acid should be given in large doses, on account of the possible relationship between rapid coagulation and emboli formation. Milk should be replaced by foods lacking in calcium and, therefore, having no effect on the time of clotting.

Thyroid Gland and Vascular Surgery.—CARRELL (*Surg., Gynec., and Obst.*, 1909, viii, 606) says that among the operations able to modify the functions of the thyroid, the ligature of the arteries alone has been used in clinical surgery for the treatment of exophthalmic goitre. Other diseases of the thyroid, especially the "formes frustes" of hyperthyroidism and hypothyroidism may be improved by surgical modifications of the circulation of the gland. It is very logical to suppose that we can stimulate or diminish the activity of a gland by increasing or diminishing its circulation, and perhaps also modify its pathological reactions. But it is premature to think at present of clinical applications along these lines. The study of the question is still at its beginning and a great many of more precise experiments have still to be done. The treatment of hypothyroidism and athyroidism by the transplantation of the thyroid is more immediately promising of practical results. The feasibility of the operation has been demonstrated. The actual problem is to render it ordinarily successful. Success in transplantation depends on two factors, biological, and surgical. We are still ignorant of the biological factors of success and failure in transplantation of tissue between animals of the same species. We do know exactly what are the interactions of the organism and its new organ. It is certain that, at least, in some cases, the gland adapts itself to its new owner, does not undergo any marked histological changes, and functionates normally. But we do not know how frequent are the cases in which the new tissue and its host will have a pernicious influence on each other. The surgical factors can be probably controlled. It must be hoped that the technique of the graft by simple implantation will be improved. The operation is very much simpler than the transplantation with anastomoses of the vessels. However, if it is found that it cannot frequently be successful the transplantation of large pieces of thyroid with union of their vessels to the vessels of the patient must be attempted. In this indirect manner vascular surgery may improve the results of the treatment of hypothyroidism and athyroidism.

THERAPEUTICS.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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The Physical Treatment of Bronchial Asthma.—STRASSER (*Monats. f. d. physikal.-diät. Heilmethod*, 1909, i) has made use of hydrotherapeutic measures for the treatment of asthma for sixteen years. These measures include general douches, local douches applied to the legs, simple and Scotch douches to the epigastrium, etc. Strasser has had good results from their use even in severe cases complicated by bronchitis. They all diminish the reflex nervous irritability, which seems to play such an important role in the etiology of asthma. Von Strümpell has advocated the use of electric light baths for the treatment of asthma, and Strasser confirms his view regarding their beneficial action. Von Strümpell has his patients remain in bed for two hours after the electric light applications. Strasser prefers the use of some of the milder hydrotherapeutic measures following the electric light baths. He does not think it advisable to allow the patients to remain for two hours bathed in perspiration. In mild cases, Strasser follows electric light bath of ten minutes' duration with a douche or light rubbing down and very light exercise. In severer cases the electric light baths are made longer in duration and the hydrotherapeutic measures following are milder. The patients are then made to rest in bed for one or two hours. Strasser regulates the length of the baths by the subjective condition of the patient. As a rule, the initial bath is not more than six or eight minutes in duration, and, subsequently, never more than fifteen minutes. Daily baths are sometimes exhausting, and if so, they should be given every other day, or on two days out of each three. On the intervening days the treatment is intermitted or general mildly tonic hydrotherapy is given. Von Strüm-